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SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT: THREATS TO SECURITY PERSIST

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: THE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S 1975-76 ANNUAL REPORT WAS RELEASED TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT MARCH 31 AND REPORTED PROMINENTLY IN THE APRIL 1 PRESS. THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE INITIAL CHAPTERS DESCRIBING THE THREATS TO INDIA'S SECURITY AND INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY . (THE REMAINING CHAPTERS, TO BE COVERED IN A SEPARATE REPORT, DEAL WITH THE STATUS OF THE MILITARY SERVICES AND DEFENSE INDUSTRIES.) THE THREAT TO INDIA'S SECURITY IS SAID TO PERSIST WITH PAKISTAN
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AND CHINA SINGLED OUT AS THE PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF CONCERN.
WESTERN ARMS SALES TO OIL PRODUCERS, THE LIFTING OF THE

US ARMS EMBARGO TO PAKISTAN, DIEGO GARCIA, AND THE SITUATION IN BANGLADESH ARE ALSO DEALT WITH CRITICALLY. END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

1. OVERVIEW OF THE THREAT: "INDIA IS SITUATED IN A REGION WHERE THE BENEFITS OF DETENTE HAVE NOT REACHED DESPITE OUR EFFORTS FOR PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP. THE THREAT TO OUR SECURITY HAS NOT DIMINISHED AND THE SITUATION THUS WARRANTS A CLOSE AND CONTINUOUS WATCH ON OUR PART. THE COUNTRY CANNOT AFFORD ANY COMPLACENCY AT THIS JUNCTURE AND WILL HAVE TO MAINTAIN CONSTANT VIGIL TO PROTECT AND SAFEGUARD HER SECURITY, WITH A GREATER UNITY OF PURPOSE AND DISCIPLINE."

2. THE REPORT CLAIMS THAT DESPITE THE "HIGHLY SENSITIVE" SECURITY ENVIRONMENT, INDIAN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES AS A PERCENTAGE OF GNP CONTINUE TO BE AMONG THE LOWEST IN THE WORLD. "WE ARE MORE INTERESTED IN PEACE AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORT, THAN IN ACQUISITION OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION..." IN A LIST OF 62 COUNTRIES, INDIA IS SAID TO RANK 38 IN THE DIMINISHING ORDER OF DEFENSE SPENDING (PRESUMABLY IN TERMS OF PERCENTAGE OF GNP), WHEREAS PAKISTAN IS TENTH.

3. VIETNAM: THE OPENING PARAGRAPH OF THE REPORT DEALS WITH THE CONCLUSION OF THE VIETNAMESE WAR: "THE LESSON TO BE DRAWN FROM THIS GRAVE HUMAN TRAGEDY IS OF THE HEAVY INFRUCTUOUS COST INVOLVED IN ANY ATTEMPT TO CONTROL THE DESTINY OF A NATION AGAINST THE CROSS CURRENTS OF NATIONALISM."

4. PAKISTAN AND ARMS SALES BY THE WEST: WESTERN INDUSTRIAL POWERS ARE TAKEN TO TASK FOR SUPPLYING SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS TO OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES. THIS HAS LED TO AN ARMS BUILD-UP IN AN AREA "SUSCEPTIBLE TO RIVALRY AND FRICTION. THE POSSIBILITY OF TRANSFER OF SOME EQUIPMENT TO PAKISTAN IN THIS PROCESS HAS IMPLICATIONS ABOUT WHICH WE CANNOT BE UNCONCERNED."

5. "IN OUR IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURHOOD, PAKISTAN CONTINUES TO MAKE CONCERTED AND EXTENSIVE EFFORTS TO AUGMENT THE ALREADY
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CONSIDERABLE STRENGTH OF ITS ARMED FORCES. PAKISTAN HAS ACQUIRED USUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF SOPHISTICATED ARMS AND AMMUNITION FOR THE THREE SERVICES, INCLUDING MISSILES, TANKS, ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS, ARTILLERY, GUN BOATS, TORPEDO BOATS, SUBMARINES, HELICOPTERS AND DIFFERENT TYPES OF AIRCRAFT FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES. THE LIFTING OF THE US EMBARGO ON ARMS SUPPLIES AND THE FRESH FLOW OF SOPHISTICATED ARMS FROM OTHER SOURCES HAS HARDENED THE MILITARISTIC TENDENCIES IN PAKISTAN AND HAS PROVED TO BE A SERIOUS SET-BACK TO THE ALREADY SLOW BUT HOPEFUL TREND THAT HAD

DEVELOPED TOWARDS NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS IN THE SUB-CONTINENT PURSUANT TO THE SIMLA AGREEMENT."

6. PAKISTAN IS BLAMED FOR DRAGGING ITS FEET ON THE PROCESS OF NORMALISATION. "THE LIFTING OF THE US EMBARGO ON ARMS SUPPLIES AND PAKISTAN'S EFFORTS TO TAP PETRO-DOLLARS TO BUILD UP HER WAR MACHINE HAVE LED TO A LOPSIDED EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPMENT OF PAKISTAN'S ARMED STRENGTH." PAKISTAN HAS CONTRIVED AN IMAGINARY SECURITY THREAT FROM INDIA AND IS EMPHASIZING ARMS BEYOND LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE NEEDS.

7. "STRAY INCIDENTS OF FIRING BY PAKISTANI TROOPS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN A FEW SECTORS ALONG THE LINE OF CONTROL IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR. THE SITUATION, HOWEVER, REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET AND THERE HAS BEEN A NOTICEABLE DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FIRING INCIDENTS, AS COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR. THERE HAS BEEN NO MAJOR CLASH, AS SUCH, BETWEEN TROOPS OF BOTH SIDES. FLAG MEETINGS TO RESOLVE AND PREVENT SUCH DISPUTES CONTINUE TO BE HELD AT VARIOUS LEVELS WHEN REQUIRED."

8. CHINA: THE PRC HAS HELPED PAKISTAN MAKE UP ITS 1971 WAR LOSSES AND HAS HELPED PAKISTAN INCREASE ITS CAPACITY FOR ARMS PRODUCTION. "PAKISTAN IS THE BIGGEST RECIPIENT OF CHINESE MILITARY AID AMONGST NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES." IN ADDITION TO BOLSTERING PAKISTAN'S HOSTILITY TOWARD INDIA, CHINA HAS NOT RESPONDED TO INDIA'S PEACE INITIATIVES. CHINA HAS INCREASED ITS "LOGISTICS" ON THE BORDERS AND INTENSIFIED "PATROLLING ACTIVITIES IN CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE INDO-TIBET BORDER." CHINA IS ACCUSED OF GIVING MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO "HOSTILE ELEMENTS" PARTICULARLY IN THE NORTHEAST "TO
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HELP CREATE INSURGENCY CONDITIONS." THESE MISGUIDED UNDERGROUND ELEMENTS APPEAR TO BE REALIZING THE FUTILITY OF THEIR ACTIVITY.

9. DIEGO GARCIA: "THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIEGO GARCIA AS A FULFLEDGED BASE IS BOUND TO INCREASE SUPER-POWER RIVALRY AND BRING TENSION TO THE INDIAN OCEAN. INCREASED MILITARY PRESENCE IN THIS AREA WILL INEVITABLY LEAD TO ESCALATION. INDIA IS OPPOSED TO ALL FOREIGN BASES."

10. BANGLADESH: "ALTHOUGH AS A CLOSE NEIGHBOUR, WE CANNOT BUT BE CONCERNED AND AFFECTED BY POLITICAL UPHEAVAL IN BANGLADESH, WE HAVE CONTINUED TO TREAT THESE TRAGIC DEVELOPMENTS AS THE INTERNAL AFFAIR OF THAT COUNTRY. OUR ANXIETIES STEM FROM THE INSTABILITY THAT HAS BEEN CREATED IN THAT REGION WHICH CAN HAVE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AS WELL AS SECURITY IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA, ESPECIALLY, IF BANGLADESH WERE TO PURSUE POLICIES WHICH MADE THE LARGE MINORITY (10 MILLION)

PANIC AND FLEE TO INDIA IN SEARCH OF SHELTER AND SAFETY."
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